



June 4, 2013

ACCA Michigan
12414 Edgerton Ave
Cedar Springs, MI 49319

Re: HB 4592, "relating to a bill to amend 1984 PA 192 entitled "Forbes Mechanical Act" amending sections 7 and 9 as introduced on April 18, 2013. and passed by the House of Representatives on May 22, 2013.

Dear Senators,

ACCA-Michigan is an association of Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC/R) contractors in Michigan and we are **neutral on HB 4592** which would allow for installation, repair and modification of a residential and/or commercial thermostat or temperature control interface by someone other than a trained HVAC systems' installer. At the same time we applaud the Michigan Senate and House for working toward making Michigan more competitive and thereby improve the Michigan economy.

While we feel there are issues that will have a negative impact on certain home and business owners who choose to go with someone other than a Licensed Mechanical Contractor, we feel the overall move by the Legislature to remove restrictions within the trades far outweighs the negative aspects of HB 4592.

Another trade-to-trade restriction that negatively impacts thousands of Michigan homeowners is with residential replacement water heaters. Currently if a homeowner wants to hire a contractor to replace a gas water heater, not only does it require a mechanical permit and a plumbing permit, but Michigan law requires that a licensed mechanical contractor connect the existing gas piping and venting and a licensed plumbing contractor connect the existing water lines. This redundancy in licensing provides an unnecessary expense to the homeowner and restricts the licensed plumbing contractor or mechanical contractor from doing a simple residential water heater change out.

Unfortunately this over regulation too often leads to neither a mechanical permit or a plumbing permit being obtained. As professional contractors we would hope that this Legislature could create a proper and safe environment where the homeowner can hire either a mechanical contractor or a plumbing contractor to replace a residential gas water heater with one corresponding permit being obtained.

In the spirit of the legislation being considered today, we would petition the Legislature to not stop here, but continue to root out burdensome code requirements that serve more to protect certain industries rather than serve to further the best interests of our citizens. Like the example that I just cited of a water heater requiring 2 permits, I would hope the Senate would apply the same thoughtfulness as it has in HB 4592 to similarly resolve this burden. And there are many more examples of similar overdone code regulations.

In summary, we appreciate the Legislatures posture to remove Trade Restrictions within the Trades in Michigan which will help make Michigan Businesses more competitive. We are also looking to work closer with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Ronald Sandelius
Executive Director - MIACCA